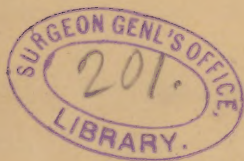


ENGLISH (F)

microbomania



MICROBOMANIA.

Ever since the publication of the "researches" of Pasteur and Koch into the nature of *microbes*, *bacilli*, *bacteria*, etc., the profession has had a mania for bacilli hunting, resulting in the alleged discovery of a separate germ as the cause of almost every disease to which flesh is heir. The "germ theory" is the latest fashion in medicine, and bids fair to revolutionize, if it has not done so already, the generally received opinions, in etiology and pathology. Already Surgery has wheeled into line with its "antiseptic" treatment; and Therapeutics promise to follow suit with the administration of "germicides" for the extermination of the *microbes* which are affirmed to be the cause of disease.

"Preventive medicine", acting on the Jennerian hypothesis, proposes the cultivation of germs with which to inoculate the healthy; that is to say, it proposes to prevent and arrest the progress of corruption by inoculating with corruption those who are healthy and clean. Small-pox is no longer to monopolize vaccination; but must share it with scarletina, diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis, erysipelas, cholera, measles, malaria, and probably the whole catalogue of diseases; for if the "germ theory" be correct, its universal application in the causation of disease is only a question of time. There can be no doubt of it being shown to produce Gout and Ophthalmia; Epilepsy and Osteo-malacia; Rheumatism and Hydrocele; Pneumonia and Abortion; St. Vitus dance and Urticaria; Psoas abscess and Tic-Doloureux; Hysteria and Varicose Veins; Nymphomania and the "Jim-Jams;" Mollities cerebri and Microbophobia. The latest "scientific" therapeutics are "Germicides" and "cultured virus" (see Tyndal's methods and hopes of experimental physiology, "Pasteur, Koch, etc., etc.") There is no longer any necessity for medical colleges or medical text books. All that is required is a vial of Pasteur's "cultured virus," at 50 francs a vial, and a bottle of "germicide." "Throw physic to the dogs!" All that need your watchful care are your vermifuges, germifuges, subterfuges, and—*fees*. The *sine qua non* for a fashionable "scientific" physician is microbiology, the *ultima thule* in physic. Never forget the "cultured virus" dodge; but vaccinate and re-vaccinate every mother's son (and daughter, too,) on whom you can lay hold. The ladies will especially bless you, because, "It is so nice, you know. Those microbes are so cunning. Besides it is 'bad form' to oppose the profession, you know, at least that is what *my* doctor says, and he is very smart."

The following outline will serve as a basis for a scheme to work the "cultured virus" dodge:—

FIRST WEEK.

On Sunday,	Vaccinate for	Scarletina.
" Monday,	"	Small-pox.
" Tuesday,	"	Diphtheria.
" Wednesday,	"	Measles.
" Thursday,	"	Cholera Infantum.
" Friday,	"	Typhoid Fever.
" Saturday,	"	The "Jim Jams."

SECOND WEEK.

On Sunday,	Vaccinate for	Pneumonia.
" Monday,	"	Erysipelas.
" Tuesday,	"	Tuberculosis.
" Wednesday,	"	Syphilis.
" Thursday,	"	Gout.
" Friday,	"	Microbophobia.
" Saturday,	"	Tic-Doloureux.

This plan is capable of considerable development and by pursuing it, every week in the year can be filled in. When you get through the list of diseases, commence re-vaccination in order to protect your patrons and—*yourself*. "There's millions in it." If the "ignorant" object to be scarified, you will urge the enactment of sumptuary laws compelling them to have the microbes, and then your fortune is made *cito tuto et jucunde*.

Jan. 1st. 1884.

"FRANK ENGLISH," M.D.

N. B. Since the above was written a new germ has been discovered and threatens to cause a dangerous epidemic. It is the *bacillus lunaticus medicus*.

Jan. 5th, '84.

F. E.

